

MICHIGAN LABOR MARKET REVIEW

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Michigan Employment
Security Commission

SLIGHT RISE RECORDED IN STATE JOBLESS RATE

Michigan's unemployment rate increased by three-tenths of a percentage point as the jobless rate advanced from 6.8 percent in February to 7.1 percent in March. The rate increase represents 12,000 additional individuals out of work, as total state residents seeking employment climbed to 324,000. The rise in joblessness was primarily a result of scattered job losses throughout several industries. Total employment in March registered a decrease as the number of employed state residents fell by 57,000 to reach 4,243,000. Additionally, the civilian labor force slipped to 4,568,000, a loss of 44,000. Compared with a year ago, employment in Michigan has jumped by 166,000, while the size of the labor force has expanded by 105,000. In March 1988, the total number of persons out of work amounted to 386,000, representing an unemployment rate of 8.6 percent.

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT SHOWS SLIGHT INCREASE

Michigan's nonagricultural wage and salary employment inched upward as industry jobs rose to 3,816,000 in March. Employment opportunities grew by approximately 6,000 as small gains were centered in both the goods producing and service producing sectors of the economy. Total employment in the goods producing industries increased by 1,000 primarily as a result of automotive callbacks. Service producing employment rose by 4,000 to 2,739,000 in March, as retail trade increased slightly. Public sector positions dipped by 2,000. Since March 1988, industry employment in Michigan has increased by 79,000 positions or 2.1 percent. Approximately 15,000 goods producing jobs have been added throughout the year, while service producing employment advanced by 63,000.



Civilian Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment Estimates

State of Michigan

ITEM	MAR 1989	FEB 1989	JAN 1989	MAR 1988
PLACE OF RESIDENCE				
Civilian Labor Force	4568	4612	4589	4463
Employment	4243	4300	4230	4077
Unemployment	324	312	358	386
Rate	7.1	6.8	7.8	8.6
PLACE OF WORK				
Wage and Salary Employment	3816	3810	3808	3737
Goods Producing Industries	1076	1075	1085	1061
Construction and Mining	129	129	134	121
Mining	10	10	10	10
Construction	119	119	124	111
Special trade Contractors	80	80	83	73
Other Construction	39	39	41	38
Manufacturing	947	946	951	940
Durable Goods	727	725	728	720
Lumber and Wood Products	15	15	15	15
Furniture and Fixtures	34	34	34	33
Stone, Clay and Glass Products	19	19	19	18
Metals	166	167	167	164
Primary Metals	47	47	48	46
Fabricated Metals	119	120	120	117
Nonelectrical Machinery	124	123	122	118
Electrical Machinery	35	35	35	36
Transportation Equipment	310	309	312	315
Motor Vehicles and Equipment	293	292	295	296
Other Transportation Equipment	17	18	18	19
Other Durable Goods	23	23	23	23
Nondurable Goods	220	221	223	220
Food and Kindred Products	40	40	42	42
Textiles and Apparel	21	21	21	22
Paper and Allied Products	20	21	21	21
Printing and Publishing	43	43	44	42
Chemicals and Petroleum	44	44	44	43
Other Nondurable Goods	52	51	51	50
Rubber and Plastic Prod.	49	49	49	47
Leather Products	3	3	3	2
Service Producing Industries	2739	2735	2723	2676
Trans., Comm. and Utilities	151	150	152	151
Transportation and Utilities	118	117	118	116
Communications	33	33	33	35
Wholesale Trade	192	192	192	185
Durable Goods	123	124	124	119
Nondurable Goods	68	68	68	66
Retail Trade	695	691	701	672
General Merchandise Stores	99	100	107	99
Food Stores	106	105	106	97
Automotive Dealers and Services	78	77	78	77
Eating and Drinking Places	232	228	227	227
Other Retail Trade	180	179	183	172
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	185	185	186	184
Finance	95	95	95	93
Insurance and Real Estate	90	90	91	91
Services	868	865	857	842
Business Services	188	188	188	184
Health Services	280	281	281	277
Other Services	399	397	388	381
Government	649	651	636	641
Federal	60	60	61	60
State	166	169	166	163
Local	423	422	409	417

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE data are based on the monthly Current Population Survey of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - 1988 Benchmark.

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT is based on a monthly sample of employing establishments as part of the cooperative federal-state Current Employment Statistics program - March 1988 Benchmark.

CLAIMS ACTIVITY

The number of individuals collecting regular unemployment benefits decreased for the first time in five months in March. The regular benefits claims load averaged 131,137 per week during the month, approximately 11,482 less than the February total.

The eight percent decrease was primarily due to the recall of state and local school employees following the holiday season. In March 1988, the number of claimants drawing benefits under the regular benefit program averaged 169,708.

WEEKLY CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Week Ending	Michigan			Detroit		
	Total	Initial	Continued	Total	Initial	Continued
March 04, 1989	158,000	15,800	142,200	69,600	8,000	61,600
March 11, 1989	154,300	16,900	137,400	68,900	7,700	61,200
March 18, 1989	152,000	13,600	138,400	64,900	5,300	59,600
March 25, 1989	150,300	12,700	137,600	64,300	5,200	59,100

CONSUMER PRICES RISE IN DETROIT

Consumer prices in the Detroit metropolitan area increased from 118.3 in December to 120.1 in February. The increase in Detroit area prices was primarily due to higher costs for housing and food. Prices in the area climbed by 5.6 percent since February 1986, when the consumer price index stood at 113.7. At the national level, the cost of living advanced by six-tenths of a percent to reach 122.3 during the month of March.

The higher national prices were due to additional costs for men and women's apparel. Between March 1986 and March 1989, national consumer prices increased by five percent. One year ago, the national index registered 116.5. Note: Beginning in January 1987, the Consumer Price Indexes were shifted to a new reference base year. All indexes expressed on a 1967=100, were rebased to 1982-1984=100.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

The average workweek of Michigan workers in manufacturing industries increased slightly to 44.0 hours in March. The minor increase was primarily the result of small gains scattered throughout the manufacturing sector.

During the month average hourly earnings inched upward by six cents to \$13.66, while average weekly earnings increased by \$4.00 to total \$601.04. In March 1988, earnings averaged \$13.36 an hour or \$571.81 per week for a 42.8 hour workweek.

MICHIGAN'S HOURS AND EARNINGS

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings a/			Average Weekly Hours a/			Average Hourly Earnings a/		
	Mar 1989	Feb 1989	Mar 1988	Mar 1989	Feb 1989	Mar 1988	Mar 1989	Feb 1989	Mar 1988
TOTAL MANUFACTURING	\$601.04	\$597.04	\$571.81	44.0	43.9	42.8	\$13.66	\$13.60	\$13.36
DURABLE GOODS	634.92	631.81	605.86	44.4	44.4	43.4	14.30	14.23	13.96
Primary Metal Products	620.64	628.03	595.95	44.3	44.7	43.5	14.01	14.05	13.70
Fabricated Metal Products	594.21	597.25	564.99	43.5	43.5	42.9	13.66	13.73	13.17
Nonelectrical Machinery	611.10	616.97	590.06	45.1	45.6	44.1	13.55	13.53	13.38
Electrical Machinery	511.15	511.15	502.67	43.8	43.8	42.1	11.67	11.67	11.94
Motor Vehicles & Equip.	765.72	755.32	717.34	46.1	46.0	44.5	16.61	16.42	16.12
NONDURABLE GOODS	475.45	470.96	456.85	42.3	41.9	40.9	11.24	11.24	11.17
Contract Construction	609.35	601.22	586.28	38.3	37.6	37.8	15.91	15.99	15.51
Department Stores	175.66	169.98	162.52	26.9	25.6	27.5	6.53	6.64	5.91

a/ Average weekly and hourly earnings are computed from aggregates of individual establishment reports utilizing the total amount paid to production workers and total production hours. Average weekly and hourly earnings differ from weekly and hourly rates in that they are affected by overtime wage rates, part-time earnings, the length of the workweek, etc.

Note: Current month data are preliminary.

**CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES
MARCH 1989 (Preliminary)**

Area	Civilian Labor Force	Total Employment	Total Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
United States	122,223,000	115,844,000	6,378,000	5.2
Michigan	4,568,000	4,243,000	324,000	7.1
Major Labor Markets				
Ann Arbor MSA	166,700	159,300	7,300	4.4
Battle Creek MSA	64,800	60,300	4,500	7.0
Benton Harbor MSA	78,600	73,000	5,600	7.2
Detroit MSA	2,194,000	2,045,000	149,000	6.8
Flint MSA	186,500	168,900	17,600	9.4
Grand Rapids MSA	363,200	345,200	18,000	5.0
Jackson MSA	66,300	61,700	4,600	6.9
Kalamazoo MSA	118,700	112,800	5,900	5.0
Lansing MSA	241,100	227,400	13,700	5.7
Muskegon MSA	66,800	61,200	5,700	8.5
Saginaw-Bay-Midland MSA	182,200	168,800	13,400	7.4
Upper Peninsula LMA	133,300	119,300	14,000	10.5
Major Counties (15,000+)				
Allegan	54,375	51,400	2,975	5.5
Barry	22,175	20,600	1,550	7.0
Bay	52,950	48,325	4,625	8.7
Branch	18,075	17,000	1,075	6.0
Cass	23,200	22,000	1,200	5.2
Clinton	30,050	28,250	1,775	5.9
Delta	16,150	14,425	1,725	10.6
Eaton	52,250	49,375	2,850	5.5
Grand Traverse	35,025	32,000	3,025	8.7
Gratiot	18,200	16,575	1,625	8.9
Hillsdale	19,875	18,525	1,375	6.9
Huron	16,200	14,450	1,750	10.9
Ingham	158,800	149,750	9,050	5.7
Ionia	19,125	17,250	1,875	9.9
Isabella	30,875	29,125	1,750	5.7
Kent	266,600	253,325	13,275	5.0
Lapeer	33,575	30,675	2,925	8.7
Lehawee	42,700	39,825	2,850	6.7
Livingston	54,475	51,275	3,175	5.8
Macomb	380,350	357,025	23,325	6.1
Marquette	29,525	27,175	2,350	8.0
Mecosta	15,925	14,575	1,350	8.5
Midland	35,150	32,700	2,450	7.0
Monroe	64,225	59,700	4,525	7.0
Montcalm	24,250	22,125	2,125	8.8
Newaygo	17,475	15,725	1,750	10.0
Oakland	584,925	554,450	30,475	5.2
Ottawa	96,625	91,875	4,750	4.9
Saginaw	94,100	87,750	6,350	6.8
St. Clair	67,300	61,000	6,300	9.4
St. Joseph	26,875	25,075	1,800	6.7
Sanilac	19,875	17,550	2,300	11.6
Shiawassee	33,250	30,500	2,775	8.3
Tuscola	23,500	21,075	2,425	10.4
Van Buren	32,150	28,925	3,225	10.0
Wayne	1,009,150	931,200	77,925	7.7

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